

# That 'Tulugak,' the Raven, Carries a Knife Sure Enough

(From THE DRUM)

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In many native tales and legends (both Eskimo and Indian), the raven is the cunningest of all fowl. He is called the fool, crook, robber, and most any name the storyteller can think of.

He is the most laughed at and a bird that is most looked down on. He is the robber on a trapper's snare or trapline. He always seems to beat the trapper to his rabbit snares in the early mornings and later sits on a nearby tree saying "caw, caw" at the trapper as if to say, "I beat you again, you sleepy-

head."

If you happen to interrupt his meal, (a rabbit in your snare) he flies to a tree and really lets off with a lot of noise being mad at you (for spoiling his meal no doubt.)

In Eskimo legends, he is believed to have a knife on him. If he sees a dead fish stuck in the ice he can pick it out in no time, whereas a fox cannot get it out by clawing or chewing at it.

He also can pick the eye out of a dead caribou in no time at all.

In the legends, no one can see his knife. If you approach him while he is eating something frozen, he will turn his back on you so you cannot

see his knife. However, in one legend, he lost his knife for a while.

A hunter was sleeping outside on a mountainside when he woke to something being sharpened on a stone. The raven was sharpening his knife on a stone, believing the hunter was still asleep. He wanted his knife sharp so he could cut the hunter up.

The hunter suddenly sat up shouting. The raven got so startled he flew off without his knife.

He flew around and around above the hunter, begging for his knife. The hunter finally made a deal with him.

He told the raven, "You, the raven, who can fly high in the air and see all over the countryside, show me where I can find a cave with a bear in it, and then I will give you your knife. If you lie and show me an empty cave, you will never see your knife again."

The raven who could not go without his knife showed the hunter the cave with a bear in it.

That's why he's still believed to have a knife on him.

There are many legends about Tulugak, the raven, that the storyteller never tires of. Recently, a friend asked me what was so great about the raven. I could have told him a short story about how smart the raven was but instead, I said:

"Well, for one thing he doesn't have to fly south for the winter."

## ***Townsite Trustee Plans to Come To Kotzebue***

George E. M. Gustafson, Townsite Trustee for the Kotzebue Townsite Addition No. 1, Alaska, Tract 7, U.S. Survey 2083, will be in Kotzebue April 30, 1968.

His visit will be to assist applicants in completing applications for the Townsite Trustee's Lot Awards within the townsite. He will endeavor to personally contact the individual occupants during his visit.

Only those who are occupants or were entitled to such occupancy on September 16, 1966, the date of acceptance of the subdivisional plat of survey of the Kotzebue Townsite Addition No. 1, or their assigns thereafter, are entitled to the allotments, as provided in the Townsite Trustee's Lot Awards Notice, which is posted in various public locations in the Kotzebue Townsite for public review.

All who were not occupants of the lots claimed at the time of the subdivisional survey in the field must be able to substantiate their claims proving chain of title.